

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Special Meeting of Wexford County Council
held on Monday 13th January, 2020 – 1.45 pm
in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford.**

Attendance:

In The Chair: Councillor M. Sheehan, Cathaoirleach

Councillors:	Maura Bell	Pip Breen	Aidan Browne
	Cathal Byrne	Ger Carthy	Jim Codd
	Kathleen Codd Nolan	Anthony Connick	Diarmuid Devereux
	Anthony Donohoe	Mary Farrell	John Fleming
	Willie Kavanagh	Leonard Kelly	Donal Kenny
	Garry Laffan	George Lawlor	Jim Moore
	Barbara Ann Murphy	Bridin Murphy	John O'Rourke
	Fionntán Ó'Súilleabháin	Jackser Owens	Frank Staples
	Joe Sullivan	Oliver Walsh	Michael Whelan

Officials: Mr. T. Enright, Chief Executive.
T. Larkin; C. Godkin E. Hore, E. Taaffe, Directors of Services;
Mr. P. Collins, Meetings Administrator;

1. Deputation from Management of Enniscorthy Greyhound Track

At the outset The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Deputation comprising of Paddy Kavanagh (former Councillor), Myles Roban and John Cummins. He also welcomed Enniscorthy District Administrator Ger Mackey.

The Cathaoirleach advised the members that the presentation was not to appear on social media during the meeting. Paddy Kavanagh introduced the Deputation and advised that a public meeting regarding Enniscorthy Greyhound Track is due to be held in the Riverside Park Hotel on Wednesday 15th January, 2020 at 8pm and all members of the Council are invited to attend.

He then gave a history of Enniscorthy Greyhound Track which was first formed in 1933 in the Showgrounds in Enniscorthy. Race meetings are held two nights a week, Mondays and Thursdays, and he noted that attendance has declined in recent years. He also noted that the loss of the greyhound track to Enniscorthy would be a big loss to the rural community.

He then handed over to John Somers who advised that the decrease in funding has arisen as a result of the findings of the Indecon Report and the attendance figures used in that report in relation to the greyhound track in Enniscorthy were incorrect. The dog track is a huge benefit to the local community and is used by Charities, schools and other community groups for fundraising and also serves as a social setting for the public.

Myles Roban gave further details from the Indecon Report. He advised that Enniscorthy Greyhound track is a privately funded organisation and he noted that four private tracks in Ireland are to be closed.

He again emphasised that the attendance figures were incorrectly stated in the Indecon Report – 19,200 is the correct figure whereas 13,200 was the figure used in the Report. Funding is to be removed which will be the end of the greyhound track.

He then advised that the Management Committee are getting submission documents ready at present to submit to Indecon and a public consultation will be held in the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy on Wednesday 15th January, 2020.

He advised that the greyhound track brings in a figure of €2m from the local economy and that approx. €200,000 is raised by community groups, schools etc.

He then presented the financial details of grant aid from Irish Greyhound Board and how a loss of that grant aid would affect the greyhound track. Some of the funding received is for prize money and upkeep of greyhound track. He also noted that Enniscorthy greyhound track is not allocated any weekend nights for dog races.

The Cathaoirleach then asked how Wexford County Council could help Enniscorthy Greyhound Track.

Following a wide ranging discussion and support from Members of Wexford County Council the Cathaoirleach proposed that the Council would resolve to support the Enniscorthy Greyhound Track in their campaign and that WCC should allocate financial assistance towards the production of their submission with regard to the Indecon Report.

Paddy Kavanagh on behalf of Management Committee thanked the Cathaoirleach and Members of Wexford County Council for their support and for giving the Management of Enniscorthy Greyhound Track the opportunity to make their case at a Special Meeting of the County Council.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Daingithe ar an lá de Feabhra 2020

County Secretary

Cathaoirleach